

RI Governor's Commission on Disabilities 2003 Legislative Package

- (1) **Better Coordination of Service** to people with disabilities and their families that are provided by multiple state government departments and non profit agencies, under contract with the state (see the Commission's An Initiative for Freedom: Promoting Independence Report);
- (2) **Expand Employment Opportunities** for adults with disabilities through:
 - (a.) Better preparation for employment (transition from school to career, vocational training, retraining and career advancement);
 - (b.) Elimination of the disincentives to employment (such as the loss of health care benefits and social services if working) including establishing a Medicaid Buy-In Program for Persons who eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid and return to work (***H 5807 & S 771***);
 - (c.) Creation of Work-Related Infrastructure
 - i. Maintain the existing public/paratransit services and expand transportation beyond ADA Funded Areas for a fare (higher than allowed in the complementary ADA system);
 - ii. Personal care services (***H 5807 & S 771***);
 - iii. Job coaches, and
 - iv. Other support services available for people with disabilities who are working)
- (3) **Affordable and accessible housing** including
 - (a.) Funding for modifications to homes/apartments owned or rented by families with disabled members
 - (b.) Expanding the public and private market of affordable/adaptable housing (***INCORPORATED INTO BUDGET ACT H5614 & S 0320***) and
- (4) **Affordable Health Care** for people on SSDI including:
 - (a.) Lowering the age for the Pharmaceutical Assistance discount (without state co-payment) for people on SSDI who are younger than 55 (***H 5238 & S 0376, ENACTED INTO LAW S 378 Sub A extending state co-payment to people on SSDI between 55 and 65***); and
 - (b.) Expand Home Care Services, so people can remain living in their community.
- (5) Revise the **Disability Business Enterprise** Law to reduce from 75% to 60% the ratio of workers with disabilities in a for-profit certified disability business enterprise (***H 5492 & S 0396***).
- (6) Revise the law establishing the **Governor's Commission on Disabilities** to ensure proper implementation of its new responsibilities [RIGL 42-87-5(b)] to investigate and hear complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability (***ENACTED INTO LAW H 5510 & S 0395***).